(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the charges leveled against its peace corps under the UN employed in Congo ranging from smuggling, illegal detention of local citizens and lending support to rebel groups;

(b) whether the office of Internal Oversight Services of the UN had investigated such complaints against Indian Blue Helmets and if so, whether India has received a copy of the investigation report; and

(c) whether the investigating agency of the UN is also probing charges of child abuse against Indian peace keepers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) United Nations has forwarded an investigation report on alleged sexual exploitation and abuse of minors by some Indian Peacekeepers earlier deployed in UN Mission in Congo (MONUC). All such instances are investigated in accordance with extant guidelines and appropriate disciplinary action is taken against guilty officials as per procedures.

Defence agreements with United States

959. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Defence agreements India has with United States;

(b) whether Government has made any study to assess the strategic benefits of India as well as U.S.A. out of those agreements; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) India has the following three Defence Agreements with U.S.A:-

(i) Agreement concerning Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information, signed in January, 2002 (**GSOMIA**)

(ii) Master Information Exchange Agreement (**MIEA**) to facilitate exchange of Research and Development, Information signed in February 2004.

(iii) Agreement on Research Development Testing and Evaluation Projects (**RDT and E**), signed in January, 2006.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Status of LLQRM system developed by DRDO

960. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Force is procuring 18 Spyder Low Level Quick Reaction Missiles\(LLQRM) from an Israeli Company;

(b) if so, the status of Trishul LLQRM system developed by DRDO;

(c) whether the DRDO project has been abandoned; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government to develop LLQRM indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with M/s Rafael, Israel to procure Spyder Low Level Quick Reaction Missile System (LLQRM) for Indian Air Force.

(b) to (d) The proposal for Trishul system was foreclosed due to its inability to meet certain critical operational requirements. However, it served as a technology demonstrator and the expertise acquired with the technologies developed during design and development phase of Trishul Missile System are being utilised for developing state-of-the-out Short Range Surface to Air Missile System.

Ordnance factory in Gujarat

961. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is contemplating to set up an Ordnance Factory for Defence in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The ordnance factories are set up to meet the sustained long-term demand of arms and ammunition and other military stores of the Armed Forces. The existing and planned capacity of the Ordnance Factories is sufficient to meet the requirement of the Armed Forces.

Joint military exercise with China

962. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Chinese troops conducted joint military exercises in December, 2007 in China;

(b) if so, the details and benefits thereof;

(c) whether such joint exercises will continue in the future between India and China;

(d) Other countries with which such exercises are proposed to be conducted by India in the near future; and

(e) the details thereof?